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LETTER DATED 17 JANUARY 1991 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF YEMEN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of the statement issued by the joint meeting of the Presidential Council and the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Yemen held on Thursday, 17 January 1991, which considered the recent developments in the region.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Abdalla Saleh AL-ASHTAL
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Statement issued by the Presidential Council and the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Yemen on 17 January 1991

This morning, a joint meeting of the Presidential Council and the Council of Ministers was held under the chairmanship of Colonel Ali Abdullah Saleh, Chairman of the Presidential Council. It considered the recent developments in the region in the light of the attacks launched by the United States and its allies against the fraternal country of Iraq.

In the Name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate

The Presidential Council and the Council of Ministers considered the painful developments in the present crisis in the region of the Gulf and the Arabian peninsula with the outbreak of armed conflict at 2.30 a.m. today, Thursday, 17 January 1991, under the leadership of the United States and the forces allied with it, in implementation of a military action that has the basic aim of destroying Iraq and inflicting heavy material and human losses on the people of Iraq, which is part of the Arab and Islamic nation, to say nothing of its consequences in terms of the dissipation of Arab capacities and resources. This represents a flagrant challenge to the declared will of the international community rejecting war and opposing the use of force, and it constitutes conduct that is unacceptable in an era of international reconciliation.

The Republic of Yemen, which has made an earnest and sincere effort to bring about peace, security and stability and to forestall foreign intervention, renews its commitment to this approach and to pursuing intensive efforts for a halt to military operations and for the parties concerned to sit down at the negotiating table in order to resolve all of the problems confronting the Arab region, including the issue of the Arab-Israeli conflict and all the various sources of tension arising therefrom, and to achieve peace and security in the entire Middle East region.

The Republic of Yemen calls upon the international community in general, and on the five States permanent members of the Security Council in particular, to bring an end to the bloodshed and aggression and to meet in full their responsibility for the establishment of a permanent and comprehensive peace in the Middle East region, given that the ongoing conflict represents one of the region's grievous manifestations resulting from double standards, negligence and procrastination in the application of international legitimacy as represented by binding resolutions adopted by the Security Council decades ago.